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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,447	09/28/2001	David Christian Lentz	CRD-0957	2148
27777	7590	02/04/2010		
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			EXAMINER RYCKMAN, MELISSA K	
			ART UNIT 3773	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/04/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,447

Applicant(s)

LENTZ ET AL.

Examiner

MELISSA RYCKMAN

Art Unit

3773

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 8-12, 18 and 20-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 20-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/09.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/2/09 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gifford, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,697) in view of Tuch (U.S. Patent No. 5,624,411).

Gifford teaches a device for joining substantially tubular organs in a living organism, comprising: an anastomosis device (as clearly seen in Figs. 42A-42D) for connecting a graft vessel to a target vessel such that the two vessels are in fluid communication, the anastomosis device including a fastening flange and a plurality of staples connected to the fastening flange and having sharpened ends with barbs, the

fastening flange comprising a single wire ring structure having a substantially sinusoidally shaped configuration for reduced profile delivery and configured to have a substantially flat profile upon deployment and the plurality of staples being configured to spring from a restraint position to a position substantially perpendicular to the ring structure and finally to an everted loop position through the graft vessel and target vessel, the plurality of staples extending from the wire ring structure in the same direction as the substantially sinusoidally shaped configuration and extending substantially beyond the wire ring for eversion.

Gifford is silent regarding a biocompatible vehicle affixed to the device, however Tuch teaches an vasculature device wherein the device includes a biocompatible vehicle (col. 3, ll. 32-34) being made from polymer materials for carrying drugs to facilitate healing and or sealing (see col. 3), Tuch also teaches a polymeric coating that controls the rate of the release of a drug (col. 3, ll. 32-34), but does not mention the drug to be rapamycin. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Gifford with a biocompatible vehicle including a therapeutic agent as taught by Tuch in order to carry drugs to facilitate healing and or sealing of the anastomosis site. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the release of rapamycin if that is the drug of choice that is necessary for the procedure, as the controlled release allows a longer time period for the drug to be affective.

Also, although the combination of Gifford and Tuch does not disclose the anastomosis device comprising the polymeric matrix and/or drugs as claimed, the

polymeric matrix and drugs as claimed are well known in the art that are provided on a stent or an anastomosis device in order to deliver drug for treating and healing or preventing restenosis at an implantation site. Therefore, it also would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the polymeric matrix and drugs as claimed in order to effectively deliver the drug for treating, healing and preventing restenosis at an implantation site.

Regarding to the specific weight percentage of polymers of a copolymer as claimed, it is well known in the art to make a copolymer out of various percentages by weight in order to provide a polymer matrix with a desire property/characteristic. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to varying the property/characteristic of the polymeric matrix by varying the percentages by weight of each residue in order to optimize or make workable the property/characteristic of polymeric matrix for use in certain drug application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA RYCKMAN whose telephone number is

(571)272-9969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571)-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MKR
/Melissa Ryckman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3773

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773